

From: Les Chard

Sent: Thursday, April 06, 2006 5:00 PM

To: Public Hearing

Subject: Bank of Wal-mart

Board of Directors, FDI

Dear Board Members, I know first-hand what happens when communities lose their local stores and services--including their banks. All over the country are such places; in particular they are communities where mega stores and mega banks have undermined downtowns and created impersonal, auto-dependent malls. The few exceptions continue to have vibrant downtowns, locally-owned businesses and locally-owned banks, with strong local identities. (One excellent example that occurs to me is Holland, Michigan.)

Such communities are not some idealistic memory of the past. These communities exist today; in fact they thrive. Typically, their crime rates are low, their citizens are articulate and involved, and they prosper.

I would hope the Board members of the FDIC would share that vision and do what they can not just to maintain such communities but also to help other communities regain such local identity and cohesiveness.

Thank you for considering my thoughts.

Les Chard